

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22 (new): Device for inking a printing plate and for scraping off the ink in dab printing, comprising

the combination of:

- a) a printing plate,
- b) an ink tank for containing and ink and inking the printing plate, and
- c) at least one doctor blade having a bottom edge, which bottom edge comes into contact with the printing plate and forms a negative angle measured with respect to a portion of the printing plate to be inked by the ink tank and from which portion excess ink is to be scraped off,

wherein the printing plate, ink tank, and the at least one doctor blade are connected by means providing relative movement with respect to the ink tank and the printing moving and with respect to the at least one doctor blade and the printing plate.

- 23 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the negative angle is about 90° - 180° .
- 24 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the doctor blade is flat and the bottom edge is bent at the negative angle and forms an obtuse angle with the printing plate.
- 25 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the doctor blade is flat and the bottom edge is bent at the negative angle and forms an acute angle with the printing plate.
- 26 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the doctor blade is arched and the bottom edge extends at the negative angle.
- 27 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the doctor blade in a height direction is folded at several acute angles and the bottom edge extends at the negative angle.
- 28 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the ink tank is elongated and with the doctor blade forms an elongated ink gap.
- 29 (new): Device according to claim 28, characterized in that the doctor blade and ink tank are fixed on a common elongated package.

- 30 (new): Device according to claim 28, characterized in that the doctor blade and the elongated package form a unit.
- 31 (new): Device according to claim 30, characterized in that the doctor blade and the elongated package are injection molded from the same material.
- 32 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that two doctor blades are mounted opposite each other.
- 33 (new): Device according to claim 22, characterized in that the doctor blade forms a closed circuit, and a portion of the doctor blade extends at the negative angle.
- 34 (new): Process for inking an engraved printing plate from an ink tank and for scraping off excess ink in dab printing, comprising the steps of:
- positioning a doctor blade having a bottom edge such that at least the bottom edge comes into contact with the printing plate at a negative angle measured with respect to a portion of the printing plate, which portion is inked and from which portion ink is scraped off, and,
 - without changing the position of the doctor blade, generating relative movement of the doctor blade with respect to the printing plate, on the one hand, in an inking direction to ink

the printing plate and, on the other hand, in a direction opposite to the inking direction to scrape off excess the ink from the printing plate.

35 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the negative angle is between almost 90° and almost 180°.

36 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in the doctor blade is flexible.

37 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the doctor blade is distortionless.

38 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the printing plate is distortionless.

39 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the printing plate is slightly deformable.

40 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the relative movement occurs by moving the printing plate and keeping the doctor blade immobile.

41 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the relative movement occurs by moving the doctor blade and keeping the printing plate immobile.

42 (new): Process according to claim 34, characterized in that the relative movement occurs by moving the doctor blade and the printing plate.